VARTRAG TALE

CHAPTER 13

BY OKI MAMIYA

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TYPESETTER REMY

THE-END-MANGA.LIVEJOURNAL.COM

ALWAYS OPEN TO NEW FREELANCERS
FINISHING OFF PROJECTS OF THEIR CHOOSING!

The Red-haired Butler
~Der rotblonde Verwalter~
"Dear Lord Astin,"
"I've included a list I drew up of wine (100 cases) that arrived recently, and I would be extremely grateful to hear which you would recommend
My master has his usual "wan and sour" look about him, as you would put it, and is doing well."

"...It seems I still have some way to go in my path to becoming a good, composed butler."
"I still take on my cat form and run about throughout the castle. (Since I don't like running around in human form that much.)"
THAT'D BE BECAUSE HE'S MANAGING YOUR RIDICULOUSLY LARGE COLMA CASTLE PRACTICALLY BY HIMSELF. NOT AN EASY JOB
BUT BELTA'S HANDWRITING HAS GOTTEN NICE.
SEEING HIS FACE WHEN WE COMMUNICATE VIA MIRROR IS NICE, BUT REALLY, LOVE LETTERS NEED TO BE HAND-WRITTEN.
...WHEN DID HE START SENDING YOU LETTERS?
Are you dim? How is that a love letter?
JEALOUS, VALA?
ADMIT IT.
BY THE WAY...

WELCOME HOME!
I'M CURRENTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF A MONTH-LONG PERIOD OF STRENGTHENING THE BARRIER. IF YOU FLY AROUND RECKLESSLY, YOUR WINGS WILL GET DAMAGED.
I always fly!
WHY ARE WE WALKING THROUGH THIS FOREST!?
Then at least a carriage!!
WHAT!? YOU'RE BEING AS PARANOID AS A GIRL WHO THINKS EVERYONE'S OUT TO GET HER!
flap
AND LORD ASTIN TOO, WELCOME
Buenos tardes♡
HEY, BELTA.
HOW DID YOUR CONFERENCE GO?
IT WAS INTERESTING. I WANTED YOU TO SEE IT TOO.
YOU WORKED HARD TODAY, MASTER.
MM.

AH... MASTER?
I'LL REST IN MY ROOM UNTIL DINNER.
SHALL I BRING YOU TEA?
NO.. HOW ABOUT SOME WINE?
I'VE PREPARED THE USUAL IN YOUR ROOM.
Valeriana officinalis [Herb]
THAT'S FINE, FRAN, BRING ME VALERIAN TEA LATER.
.....
DOES HE HAVE INSOMNIA?
To drink Valerian tea.
WELL... HE'S ALWAYS LIKED HERB TEA.
He sleeps fine, the same as usual.
PERHAPS HE'S TIRED, SINCE HE RARELY APPEARS BEFORE A LARGE AUDIENCE.

IT'S TRUE HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO OUT...
WELL, THE "CONFERENCE", IT WAS MORE LIKE AN INFORMAL GATHERING.
PLUS THE TOPIC WAS, "HOW CAN WE LIVE TRANQUILLY IN THE HUMAN WORLD?"
NOT ALL DEMONS WANT TO LIVE IT UP IN THE CITY, YOU KNOW.
SINCE VALA HAS LIVED OUT HERE IN HIS CASTLE FOR SO LONG, HE'S A GOOD SPEAKER ON THE SUBJECT.
UNLIKE IN THE LAST CENTURY, WE HAVE TO BE AWARE OF THE STRIKING ADVANCES IN SCIENCE.
I UNDER-STAND THAT.
YOU'RE SMART, BELTA
I ALWAYS SAID A GOOD BUTLER IS INDISPENSABLE TO A CASTLE RUNNING SMOOTHLY.
...IT'S TRUE.
That's my goal
haa
I KEEP TELLING VALA HE'S A LUCKY GUY.
This tea is also delicious. What are you feeling so glum about?

HEY, BELTA.
I'VE KNOWN YOU WELL SINCE YOU WERE JUST THIIIS BIG.
WHAT ?
BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR MASTER...
HUH!?
BY THE WAY .. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
DON'T BE ABSURD!
YOUR REACTION IS SO EASY TO READ.
NOTHING ...
How brave, my little kitten.
FORTUNE TELLER ASTAROTH
AND YOU'RE STILL HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME?
DRIP DRIP DRIP
HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN THE DEBT YOU OWE ME FROM SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS AGO?
WELL... LORD ASTIN.
That's actually not so unreasonable
...I UNDERSTAND. I'LL SWALLOW MY EMBARRASSMENT AND TELL YOU. UM ..
IF YOU COULD, PLEASE DON'T LAUGH...

pop
777 PLACES!
ON THAT DAY,
HOW DID IT TURN INTO THAT...
I WAS RUNNING AROUND AS A CAT,
EXAMINING WHICH PARTS OF THE CASTLE NEEDED REPAIR.
...WHAT A DEPRESSING NUMBER.
WE NEGLECTED IT FOR TOO LONG. WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
MM.
HUH?
IT SEEMS FRAN IS GOING TODAY.
What are you doing!?
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD LATELY. TAKE A BREAK OCCASIONALLY.
grab
THEN I'LL GO OUT ON MY EVENING PATROL ...
Unk!
Gah!

YOUR PERSONALITY REALLY DOES CHANGE WHEN YOU'RE A CAT.
Though this is the usual
flop
THEN I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT AND SETTLE DOWN HERE.
FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE...
Chevelure de Mèche Lune Chat
I JUST INTENDED TO STAY A LITTLE WHILE.
HOW-EVER—
WHEN I LOOKED UP, IT WAS ALREADY DARK OUTSIDE
OH!
CRAP! I ACTU-ALLY FELL ASLEEP!
Ahhh! What time is it!?

scramble
When did we get in the bed? What then? Wait, forget that—
I'M SORRY! I'LL PREPARE DINNER AT ONCE!
AH—— WAIT.
Eeek!
FLIP FLOP
MM...
ARE YOU AWAKE...?
...
PUT SOMETHING ON FIRST.
Hey.
HUH?
I RETURNED TO HUMAN FORM—!?
Why—!?
!?
!!
Sorry, I didn't notice. We just slept like that.
I WANTED TO LIE DOWN FOR A BIT. LOOKS LIKE THE RIBBON AROUND YOUR NECK CAME OFF WHEN I MOVED YOU..
Cat/Ribbon Man/Clothes

BLUSH
TH... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I MESSED UP LIKE THIS!
UM!
What should I do!
UM...
I'M SORRY!
CALM DOWN A BIT. ...HM?
...OH, IT'S BECAUSE YOU SLEPT ON MY ARM THE WHOLE TIME.
Looks like my left arm's numb I can't move it
!!!
Gah! To think I did that!
I'M SORRY! LET ME MASSAGE IT!!
flop
I'M WORRIED MY OLD BAD HABITS MIGHT RESURFACE AND I MIGHT INADVERTENTLY ATTACK YOU.
A maid outfit would suit you better.
Still half asleep
HUH? BUT...
dance
YOU REALLY SHOULD GET DRESSED FIRST.
...NO, IT'S ALREADY BETTER, BELTA.

EVEN IF IT IS A JOKE, IF BY ANY CHANCE THERE WERE TO BE A MISUNDER-STANDING,
I...
IT WOULD DAMAGE THE PRINCE'S GOOD NAME!
...NOT GOOD AT ALL.
BECAUSE "I" AM...
...!
NO!!
IT'S NOT GOOD!!
Isn't that a good thing? Sharing his bed
WHAT WAS VALA THINKING, TRYING THAT?
HOW WOULD THAT DAMAGE HIM?
RATHER, IT'S A NOBLE'S PREROGATIVE TO HAVE AFFAIRS
YOU'RE NOT THE SAME AS YOU WERE IN BYGONE DAYS
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU TRY GROWING UP?

LORD ASTIN, I THOUGHT I COULD TALK TO YOU...
drip
HÖGA KUSTEN
SURSTROMMING
THIS IS DINNER TONIGHT?
This is that fermented herring? I believe they eat it in some country during war...
If you open that in front of me, I will kill you.
SOMEONE MADE THE COOK ANGRY.
※ Surstromming
18th century (Sweden)
Stinks so badly it'll kill you.

What did you say to him?
BUT HE'S ANGRY, RARE AS THAT MAY BE.
.. HE TAKES BELTA'S SIDE.
WHAT ABOUT FRAN? I'LL TAKE ANYTHING.
multi-servant
BUT DON'T YOUR RETAINERS TAKE YOU A LITTLE TOO LIGHTLY, VALA?
Through and through.
BUT HIS DESSERTS ARE DELIGHTFUL...
I COULD GO WITHOUT FOOD FOR A MONTH WITH NO ISSUES,
...THANKS.
All done♪
DID YOU SERVE THEM IN MY STEAD?
SORRY, FRAN.
CRYING IN FRONT OF A GUEST...
I'M A TERRIBLE BUTLER...
Worse than an apprentice
My red eyes are even more red.
HAAA

IT'S A FULL MOON, IS IT?
I HAVE TO WATER THE SEEDS I'VE SOWED.

LORD ASTIN STAYED FOR THREE DAYS BEFORE RETURNING HOME.
THOUGH ON FRAN'S ADVICE, I TOOK A LEAVE FROM MY REGULAR CASTLE DUTIES IN ORDER TO BRUSH UP ON MY SKILLS,
AND LOCKED MYSELF UP IN THE BASEMENT ...
Also known as punishment.
Knock knock
※ When Belta's out among humans for work, Fran takes over the butler's duties.
WE'RE NOT THERE YET, SCHLANGE.
LORD ASTIN... YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOYING YOURSELF.
(Butler hairbrai)
COULD IT BE THAT YOU BROUGHT THAT CHILD TO THAT CASTLE KNOWING THIS WOULD COME ABOUT?
HASN'T "NOTHING" COME ABOUT YET?
haha
What are you talking about?

Laundry
Pantry
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU...
AH... SORRY!
It's been 3 days
What do you need?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN? FOR YOU TO COME TO THE SERVANT'S AREA...
MASTER!?
WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT THE NEWEST TYPE OF BOILER.
It seems interesting
bow
The souls are happy too.
THEY SEEM TO MOVE MUCH EASIER THAN BEFORE, THANKS TO YOU!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SCARECROW'S ABILITIES?
Soul Puppets
HUH?
...I REALLY CAN'T STAND THAT CANNED FISH.
THAT GUY'S GONE HOME. ...ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME THINGS GO BACK TO NORMAL?
OH BELTA.

WELL-INFORMED FAMILIAR
WHISPER
AND THEN I COULDN'T FIND MY PIPE, EITHER.
MASTER, MY COOKING SKILL'S GOTTEN A LITTLE BETTER THAN THAT...
...BUT WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
WHAT!
Excuse me, folks
I'M OFF
I'll leave it to you
...ASTIN SAID IT GOES UNEXPECTEDLY WELL WITH WINE AND TOOK A LIKING TO IT,
BUT I'D TAKE YOUR OMELETS WITH EGGSHELLS OR HALF-BURNT TOAST OVER IT ANY DAY.
That guy likes strange things, is all.
Drawing Room
Clutter
Clutter
Bedchamber
Library
((excerpt))
DUN—
How is the mess so wide-spread?
Those guys...
...BUT IT WAS ONLY 3 DAYS.
!
That's just cruel! You told me you'd take care of serving them!
FRAN ~!
Is this starvation tactics?
You said to just relax and took myself away!

I WILL PROTECT COLMA CASTLE!!
I REMEMBER...
WHY IT WAS I WANTED TO BECOME A BUTLER.
This is terri- ble!
OH FRAN, WHY!?
...NO, I CAN'T BLAME SOMEONE ELSE.
I'm the cause of this
IT'S BECAUSE THE MASTER'S LIFE WAS JUST TOO MESSY...
LEFT ALONE, THIS PLACE WOULD BECOME AN ABANDONED CASTLE IN NO TIME!
HE'S ALL FIRED UP, ISN'T HE?
GOOD FOR OUR RUBY ♡
flare
KeePer
flare
YOU THINK I'LL LET THE HOME I FINALLY FOUND TURN INTO A DUMP!?
YOU'RE MORE OF A HOUSE-KEEPER THAN A BUTLER.
I've thought so for a while...

DID YOU RESOLVE ALL YOUR PROBLEMS?
Tending to the curtains (off to the wash)
NO...
I DECIDED TO PUT AN END TO MY CHILDISH STRIKE.
REALLY, IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE FREE TIME THAT I THINK ABOUT UNNECESSARY THINGS.
SO I'VE DECIDED TO WORK HARDER THAN BEFORE.
Like my "gypsy mother" taught me
FORCED CHANGE IN MINDSET
PLUS, I WANT TO GET BIGGER.
BIGGER?
YES!
AS TALL AS MY MASTER AND AS BULKY AS FRAN!
Then I think I'll be invincible
And I won't be treated like a child or a page
I FOUND THEM, MASTER.

From the canopy
FIVE OF THEM! HOW DID THEY ALL GET THERE...
AH, I GUESS THEY CAN FALL DOWN THERE.
AS MY BUTLER COMMANDS ...
PLEASE STOP BRINGING YOUR PIPES TO BED WITH YOU!
SURE SURE...

Vartrag Tale
Mamiya Oki's

Wiedersehen bis nächstes Mal.